



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

September 28, 1928.

SYNOPSIS OF FEDERAL AND STATE GAME LAWS GIVEN IN NEW BULLETIN

"Game Laws for the season 1928-29," the twenty-ninth annual summary of Federal, State, and Provincial statutes relating to game, has been compiled by the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, and published as Farmers' Bulletin 1575-F. The outstanding information presented is the summary of laws relating to seasons, licenses, limits, possession, interstate transportation, and sale, for each State and Province and for Newfoundland and Mexico, in the form of detailed but concise synopsis, which should be highly useful to thousands of sportsmen hunting in their own and other States.

Only nine States have held legislative sessions since the bulletin on the game laws for the season 1927-28 was issued--Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia--so that modifications in the game laws have been comparatively few. Federal seasons on migratory game birds were changed during the year by amendments to the regulations as follows: Open seasons on gallinules were prescribed concurrent with those on rails, because of the fact that gallinules migrate generally with rails and are commonly shot as "king rails" in many sections of the country during the rail season. Formerly the seasons on gallinules were the same as those on waterfowl. A departure in the fixing of

open seasons was made with reference to mourning doves in South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, where the open season was divided into two periods, the first during the month of September and the second from November 20 to January 31. The open seasons on woodcock were limited to maximum periods not exceeding 31 days. The season on waterfowl, Wilson snipe, and coots in Illinois was restored to the period September 16 to December 31. The waterfowl season in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, south and east of Cape Cod Canal was modified, and the period from October 1 to January 15 was prescribed to harmonize with the existing season in the island counties of Dukes and Nantucket.

Another amendment affecting waterfowl hunting eliminated the restriction on the placing of sinkboxes, or batteries, in coastal sounds and bays within 700 yards of the shore at ordinary high tide, or within 700 yards of another sinkbox.

The game-law bulletin is now being distributed to law-enforcement officials, conservationists, sportsmen, and others as an aid in the administration by the Biological Survey of laws protecting migratory birds and regulating interstate commerce in game. Copies of the bulletin can be had, as long as the supply lasts, on application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Hunters are urged to procure also copies of State game laws from their respective State game and conservation officials, a list of whom is given in the new bulletin. There is also given a list of United States game protectors, superintendents of Federal wild-life refuges, and reservation protectors, to whom violations of the Federal game laws may be reported.